

Orrell Rugby Newsletter

Issue 6

May 2008

Chairman's Notes

We have now come to the end of a very successful first season and but for a few brushes with the league's rules we could have been promoted. Nonetheless we have shown that we can more than compete at this level and will be better prepared next season to make an even stronger challenge.

I would like to thank all the players and coaching team for their hard work and perseverance, as without them there is no club. I would also like to thank the many of you who have provided support on match days and made us the best supported team in the league.

It is because of the confidence that this season has given us that I wrote to you all a few weeks ago seeking pledges of support for our search for a new ground. I would like to give you some feedback on the responses that I have had so far. A number of people have pledged only on the basis that we remain amateur. I can categorically state that we are an amateur club and will remain so. Our constitution, which you will get the chance to discuss at our AGM in June, states that we are an amateur club and it would take a vote of all members to reverse that situation. In addition the current committee including myself are only prepared to work on the basis that we do not pay players.

I have received 39 pledges amounting to £23,000. That is an average of £590 per pledge. I have received pledges for amounts ranging from £50 up to pledges of over £1000. Of the nine pledges of over £1000 a repeated comment was that they were willing to give back what they received from JJB.

I have had a number of suggestions for fund raising, also a number of people have said that they would prefer to donate a monthly or annual sum rather than an up front lump sum. We will look at all these suggestions and provide a range of ways for members to give the financial support that they are able.

A number of others have said that they would prefer to wait until they have visibility of a definite project.

As a result of the above responses I have been in contact with a local landowner and have agreed that we will apply for outline planning permission for 2 pitches and clubhouse facilities on his land. We have not yet entered into negotiations on the leasing costs for the land. The planning process could take some time and is not guaranteed to be successful.

The above pledged amount will not be sufficient to secure a long term lease however we do have considerably more than 39 members and I would like to appeal to those of you who would like to help but have not yet replied to contact me (Mob: 07802 788356 or Tony.havlin@blueyonder.co.uk)

Finally I would like to encourage you to attend the AGM in June (details below) as it is an important part of you ensuring that your committee are acting responsibly and advancing the objectives of the club.

Tony Havlin

Secretary's Notes

Many thanks to our supporters and sponsors for their support throughout the year. I think it is fair to say that none of the committee had expected the numbers that we have seen at

our home games. This is witnessed by the fact that the raffles have raised over £1500 over the year. May I and the committee take this opportunity to thank Angela and Sue for their magnificent efforts with the raffle over the past season. It is heart warming to think that we have so much support and hopefully by next year we will have managed to acquire some land to continue the rebuilding process.

The committee would also like to thank the F.O.P.S for the support and donations to both the Seniors and the Juniors over the past year.

Dick Fisher

AGM

The AGM will be held on the Wednesday 11th June 2008 at St Lukes Parish Hall Orrell 7:30 pm. We will write to all members two weeks before with an agenda. The proposed constitution will be available approximately 4 weeks before the meeting. Any member wanting a copy should contact Dick Fisher on 07736 802 126

End of Season Presentation Night

On Friday 9th May a presentation night has been arranged at Bispham Hall Bowling Club. Start is 7:30pm. All are welcome. Bispham Hall Recreation Club, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7DW

Web Site

Our web site at www.orrellrugby.co.uk will be updated throughout the summer with any news. Any feed back on how site can be improved to help our members would be gratefully received. Use the 'Contact Us' link if you have any comments or suggestions.

Members News

Gary Jones

The club and committee send their best and speedy recovery to Gary Jones who recently underwent a major operation in Hope Hospital at the end of April.

Ken Norris

Ken has had to resign as our auditor because of a serious illness. We wish Ken a speedy recovery and hope he can resume the role once he is in full health.

Arthur Fisher

It is with regret that we report the death of Arthur Fisher at the age of 85 on the 24th April 2008 in hospital after a short illness. Arthur joined Orrell in 1947 and served on the Selection and Executive Committees, as well as refereeing at the end of his playing career.

Finances

Treasurer's Report

With the playing season just over we are financially in the position that we aimed to be, with virtually all our playing costs for next season already in the bank. This is a remarkable achievement and I personally thank

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everyone who has made this possible. We must however kick on as we intend to field a second team in the 2008/09 season, with the extra cost that this will entail and progress the longer term plan of acquiring our own ground and clubhouse.

I know that Dave Hewlett is already in discussions with potential sponsors for next season and I have already had offers of financial support which is very encouraging.

We will also be pursuing other sources of funding, and we would welcome help from anyone with any expertise in the area of grants.

In summary I am sure you will agree that our first season has been remarkable both on and off the rugby field.

John Yates

skirts, was worth the money alone. By the way no one asked them to dress up. I believe there are clubs for people like that, and also if you buy Dave Cleary a drink he's taken a liking to cider with a KitKat in it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some people in the background, without them the rugby wouldn't take place. First Graham Winstanley for looking after the referees, and confirming fixtures, Derek Hampson and Ian Hollis for being general dogsbodies, Dick Fisher for all his laundry duties, and last but not least my old mate Jonny Mac, not only does he dish all the kit out on match days, then runs touch, collects it all back in, counts it, sorts it, and gets it ready for the laundry, all this when most of the players are in the pub. All this on top of his unquenchable enthusiasm, and will to win. I heard someone say this season that he used to be a member of the real Orrell, no, these are real Orrell members.

Colin Nicholson

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

South Lancashire & Cheshire Division 2					
League Table					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Dukinfield	22	16	1	5	33
Ormskirk	22	13	2	7	28
Sefton	22	14	0	8	28
Orrell Anvils	22	13	2	7	26
Crewe & Nantwich	22	11	1	10	23
Wallasey	22	11	2	10	22
Southport RUFC	22	11	0	11	22
Warrington	22	10	1	11	21
Ashton on Mersey	22	10	1	11	21
Oswestry	22	10	0	12	20
Liverpool Collegiate	22	3	0	19	4
Oldershaw	22	5	2	15	2

Rugby

If we had been offered a top four finish in the league before the season started, I think we would have happily taken it. To be very disappointed not to finish in the top two and gain promotion, shows just how far we have come in a very short time.

This season has been a learning curve for all of us, and some stupid mistakes have been made, losing us points, that I take full responsibility for. We now feel we have a strong base to kick on next season.

On the recruitment front we have already spoken to a number of players to strengthen our squad, with a second team one of our main priorities for next season.

I have nothing but admiration for all the players involved, time and time again they put their bodies on the line. Sometimes playing when not fit, and what ever level of rugby you play at, the broken bones and stitches hurt just the same.

The end of season tour to Whitley Bay, was a huge success. Organised by Rob Jones as a thank you to the players, as well as a team bonding exercise, it proved what a great set of players and supporters we've got. To see Derek Hampson in a long blond wig, with Neil Liptrot and Mark Hewlett in mini

Sponsorship/Fundraising

My apologies if this sounds like an Oscar nominee acceptance speech but on behalf of Orrell Anvils I would just like to thank everyone who has sponsored, raised money, bought a programme or bought a raffle ticket this season. Your response has been fantastic and has far exceeded our wildest expectations. In particular I would like to thank Brian Halliwell at R Banks & Son for their generous sponsorship of this seasons kit.

The Club can now approach next season with a positive bank balance which gives us a foundation on which to build for the future.

Now is the time to start planning for the forth coming season. The team is capable of achieving promotion and coupled with the ambition to field a regular second team we must bang the collection tin yet again!!

At the AGM I will be outlining my plans for sponsorships and fund raising. There are great opportunities for company advertising and I would be grateful if anyone is interested in sponsorship next season to contact me on 07764 576278 or email info@hallbridgeinternational.com

Once again a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who have helped to get Orrell Rugby financially back on the field.

Enjoy the summer break and be raring to go in September.

Dave Hewlett

For those inspired by the commitment of all the players and helpers please contact me if you can help in any way.

Dave Hewlett: Tel: 07764 576278: or email: info@hallbridgeinternational.com

Juniors

The Juniors have had a frustrating season with many of their home games at St John Rigby being postponed because of the state of the pitches. Next season they hope to run two teams U13 and U16s. If you know of juniors who are interested in playing rugby, or are able to help coaching the juniors and refereeing matches on a Sunday mornings please contact Mark Gaffney on Tel: 07920 218 219

The Juniors are the future of rugby in Orrell

Lock & Key Orrell



Langtree



Grisdale

Hills Florist
BLEU BLANC ROUGE

The Smarter Estate Agents

A & K Airport Taxis